# How the "Big, Beautiful Bill" Will Impact West Virginia Manufacturing and Energy

*Data is sourced from the Clean Economy Tracker unless otherwise noted. Data as of June 2025. Fact sheet updated July 2025.*

**Questions? Reach out to us at info@cleaneconomytracker.org.**

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## What does the “Big, Beautiful Bill” mean for domestic clean energy manufacturing? What does it mean for West Virginia?

In 2022, new federal law introduced domestic energy manufacturing incentives and federal support for clean energy projects. West Virginia has seen at least **$799 million** committed to clean manufacturing, creating **1,620 jobs for West Virginians**.

The “Big, Beautiful Bill” threatens these gains by cutting access to key tax credits and programs, including:

- Adding restrictions to the Advanced Manufacturing Production Tax Credit (45X), which incentivized U.S. clean energy supply chain components.
- Adding restrictions to credits for wind and solar projects (45Y, 48E), which included bonuses for U.S.-sourced materials.
- Phasing out the Clean Vehicle Tax Credit (30D), which lowered the price of electric vehicles that source battery components from the U.S. or our allies, including critical minerals.
- Eliminating credits to install solar panels and other energy technologies on homes to lower household energy bills (25D).

West Virginia has historically been a coal-producing state. Much of the state is designated as an “Energy Community,” which expands incentives for companies building clean energy projects in these regions. The legacy of mining and construction also means that West Virginians are an excellent fit for jobs in clean energy manufacturing, project development, and critical minerals. In fact, many of the highlighted clean energy projects target former coal workers in their hiring.

## Which West Virginia manufacturing projects are at risk?

- In late 2024, Form Energy completed initial construction on a battery manufacturing facility in Weirton, the product of a **$760 million investment**. At present, the facility **employs 450 people.** By 2028, Form expects the facility to be over 1 million square feet, manufacture 500 MW of batteries per year, and **employ at least 750 people**.

    - The founders of Form Energy credit the business environment created by federal policy for making the Weirton factory possible.
    - Form's decision to locate in West Virginia was **driven by the skills of the local workforce in manufacturing**. The minimum salary at the facility is $63,000, which is $10,000 more than what men in the region make on average and double what women make on average.
    - Form makes cost-effective batteries that can provide backup at times of high electricity demand or even blackouts. Because iron is readily available in the U.S., **their supply chain is almost entirely domestic**.
- In September 2022, BHE Renewables purchased 2,000 acres in Jackson County to construct a **$500 million industrial site** powered entirely by a renewable energy microgrid. Two manufacturing facilities have located at the site: first, Our Next Energy announced a long duration storage battery manufacturing facility, proposing to invest **$22 million to develop the factory and create about 100 jobs**. Additionally, Precision Castparts Corp. has developed a titanium melt facility that uses 100% renewable energy, creating **an additional 200 jobs**.
    - The battery site was constructed on a former aluminum site, highlighting the revitalization that these industries can bring to West Virginia mining communities.
- In October 2024, Sparkz Energy obtained a grant from the Department of Energy to construct a lithium iron phosphate processing facility in Taylor County. In this initial phase of the project, the company will renovate a shuttered glass factory and create about **75 jobs**. This is part of a larger plan to build a battery manufacturing GigaFactory in West Virginia, which will employ **350 workers**.
    - Sparkz Energy has gone the extra mile to ensure that these investments benefit West Virginia workers. They are partnering with the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) to **hire former coal mine workers**. UMWA will recruit the workers, who will be able to receive training at a site in Pennsylvania before working at the processing facility. Sparkz has highlighted how the experience and training of WV coal workers makes them particularly well-prepared to work in chemical and battery manufacturing.
- In 2023, West Virginia University received a grant from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to **develop a first-of-a-kind facility to extract and separate rare earth elements and critical minerals from coal mining waste and ash**. This technology could create a market of the future for coal communities, provide jobs for displaced workers, and allow us to reduce reliance on China for these critical minerals. However, policies that drive demand for domestically sourced raw materials such as the Advanced Manufacturing Production Tax Credit (45X) and Clean Vehicle Tax Credit (30D) are needed to provide markets for these new technologies to scale.

## What will the "Big, Beautiful Bill" mean for West Virginia's energy?

West Virginia has **1.42 GW** of clean electricity deployed and another **253 MW** planned. The table below shows the breakdown of clean electricity generation by technology:

### Clean Power in West Virginia

| Technology | Operating (GW) | Planned (GW) | Construction (GW) | Total (GW) |
|---|---|---|---|---|

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Batteries | 0.05 | 0.15 | 0 | 0.20 |
| Hydroelectric | 0.37 | 0.04 | 0 | 0.41 |
| Onshore Wind | 0.86 | 0 | 0 | 0.86 |
| Solar PV | 0.15 | 0.06 | 0.01 | 0.22 |
| **Total** | **1.42** | **0.25** | **0.01** | **1.68** |

*Data refers to nameplate capacity for clean energy generation.*

These projects could be jeopardized by recent changes to the clean electricity tax credits (45Y, 48E), which support building and producing clean energy. Restricting these credits for wind and solar will also reduce capacity on the grid when more is needed. PJM Interconnection (which operates West Virginia's regional grid) estimates that peak summer load will increase by 70 GW in the next 15 years.

## Which West Virginia energy projects are at risk?

- Bedington Energy Facility will bring at least 50 MW of clean energy online in Berkeley County at the site of a former DuPont plant on the Potomac River. The project will create about 200 construction jobs and is expected to enter into commercial operation in October 2026.
- FirstEnergy subsidiaries Mon Power and Potomac Edison plan to build a 12 MW solar farm in Davis, Tucker County and a 8MW farm in Weirton, Hancock County. These projects are part of a group of five solar farms that the companies will bring online, which will collectively generate 50 MW of power – enough to power about 8,500 homes. At the existing 19 MW site in Fort Martin, the project provided work for 100 local union workers, while all panels and components were U.S.-made.

These projects would create hundreds of construction jobs and give local business a boost. But changes to clean electricity tax credits puts these projects, investments, and jobs at risk.

## Will my energy bills go up?

The law eliminates programs and cuts access to key credits that lower the cost of energy. Energy Innovation estimates that the average West Virginia household will spend nearly **$160 more per year on energy by 2030,** and **$410 more by 2035**.

## What does this mean for residential energy projects in West Virginia?

The Energy Information Administration estimates that West Virginia has installed 35 MW of rooftop solar. In lower-income neighborhoods, rooftop solar had been out of reach due to high costs, but 3,000 West Virginia residents installed solar panels after the passage of the IRA. With current incentives, the average West Virginia household would **save an estimated $71,881 over 25 years** if they installed solar panels. However, the "Big, Beautiful Bill" will eliminate the Residential Clean Energy Property Credit (25D) that helps people make these cost-saving upgrades. The credit also covers other household energy technologies like battery storage, geothermal heat pumps, and solar water heaters.

## What does this mean for West Virginia's economy?

According to a report by a report from Energy Innovation, with limits to the advanced manufacturing and clean electricity tax credits, West Virginia would have lost **10,500 jobs by 2030 and nearly 14,300 jobs by 2035**, compared to 2022 policies. This represents GDP losses of about **$2.12 billion in 2030 and $2.74 billion in 2035**. That's 2.5% of West Virginia's 2024 GDP, or roughly the equivalent of an entire year of economic growth at current rates.

## Is West Virginia alone?

No. We are experiencing a nationwide boom in the U.S. clean economy. In the last three years, companies have announced at least $169 billion in investments and 172,900 jobs across over 600 clean manufacturing projects in 47 states, with 77% of the investment in Republican districts. Clean energy projects totaling 325 GW, enough to power 105 million homes or 209 million EVs, have been built or planned, 80% in Republican districts. This equals the energy output of 156 Hoover Dams.

With this new law, Energy Innovation projects a $1.1 trillion GDP drop from 2025-2034. Electricity costs would rise 50%, adding $170 billion annually for consumers by 2035. By 2030, 830,000 jobs would be lost, and an additional 790,000 jobs will be lost by 2035.

## Top Five Employers in West Virginia

*(source)*

1. West Virginia University Medicine
2. Vandalia Health
3. Marshall Health
4. Walmart
5. WVNH EMP, LLC